

# THROUGH THE MUSEUMS.

## WITH A STUDENT.



Magical world of the Middle Ages in Japan.

The student, as he was pleased to term himself, was seated behind a row of cases when the limited space in the rooms of the National Museum, and the fact that the sports of the gods and the town which but for these obstructions would form a most attractive center in that part of the building. With eyes fixed, he was apparently studying, with some degree of satisfaction, Crawford's plaster cast of "Liberty," the prototype of that fifteen thousand pounder because which surmounts the Capitol, looming above the display.

"I was just comparing in my mind's eye," said he, when aroused from his reverie by the scribe, "the crowded condition of the National Museum today with its auctions of half a century ago. In that short space of time some wonderful strides have been taken. Prior to 1846 it was a heterogeneous collection in an out-of-the-way corner of the Patent Office. A quantity of curiosities, given to the United States by foreign powers, or sent home by ambassadors and naval officers from different parts of the world, formed the start."

The collection included such articles as a pair of Washington's knee breeches, the femur of a mastodon, and the bones of a mammoth. No step was taken by Congress toward making it a creditable exhibit until that time when it was placed in the new building, and the National Museum was born.

Transferred to the Smithsonian. "When the Patent Office began to grow crowded with the models of our inventive people," he continued, "the small collection of curios, much had been added to from time to time from various sources, was transferred over to the Smithsonian. But the collections kept coming, and in the course of years that institution became too small, and the present building was erected."

"Look at now," said he, glancing around the crowded rooms and its communicating passageways. "There is enough material here to stock two more museums."

The fact is, the National Museum is in a deplorable state. For the relief of this pressure a series of galleries are now being erected in parts of the building, but they will be used to a great extent for storage purposes, and will be filled with the valuable specimens which now crowd every nook and corner of the building and the dilapidated and unsightly sheds adjoining it.

The two started off on a tour of investigation, and there is where their troubles began.

Near the Chinese pagoda is a case of ghastly masks which grin and frown on a small doorway secluded in that corner of the room. Through this place the two wended their way, climbing the spiral stairs of iron to the floor above. Everything seemed to be in a disordered state. Collections, varying from the mummified of war to trinkets of civilized and uncivilized people from every point of the compass, were heaped on every side.

Off from this main room are smaller ones, each likewise packed with exhibits of an interesting character, and which the public are not allowed to behold on account of lack of space in the halls below.

From here they retraced their steps. Following the avenue to the right, which leads through other crowded courts and cases, they came to more balcony rooms in the other end of the building. On the floor of one of these entrances was a huge label, in letters large enough and black enough that "he who runs might read." It bore this pointed legend, "No admittance."

They entered.

On the second floor, in addition to another "no admittance" placard, there was another tucked to the door, giving out this information, "Reptiles, office of the curator."

An Uncanny Corner.

Amiey chattered up and down the scribe's spine and he begged to retire, since he was not interested in reptiles, but remote chance was not listened to, and the student only smiled at his timidity.

When that individual forms within him the determination to become a creature, his ambition just simply runs away with him. And this is where he made a great mistake. We had heretofore imagined that there

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Before you study this subject you must have learned all about history, physiology and geology. If you would go even deeper you must be able to understand the history of things treated of in ornithology, oology, conchology and the different other branches of zoology. Besides being conversant with all that, you must have a long and long and train your tongue so it will be conversant with the familiarity of an old love words of a dozen syllables.

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"The ancients," he continued between glances, "alleged that his hissing would drive away all other serpents, and that his breath, and even his look was fatal."

Enough is enough.

But the scribe heard no more.

When the student finally uncoiled himself and emerged from the gruesome place he found that individual gazing skyward, occasionally glancing furtively about him and particularly in the direction of the doorway which emitted the snake.

On the probable age of the giant paper squid which is suspended from the ceiling in the hall below devoted to fish and things fishy.

"I fell below," said the scribe, as he approached.

"So do I," came the answer.

"Let's take in the Smithsonian," said the scribe. "There's plenty of room over there and nothing ominous."

The student nodded assent and murmured something to himself, while feeling for his pocket dictionary.

To that institution the two hied themselves.

Architecturally the Smithsonian differs from the National Museum as a terrapin from a woodcock. Its exterior is cold and uninviting, and it is the most serious place on the face of the earth. Those who enter there leave fun behind, and those who have the time to study the mysteries ex-

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At the very threshold they ran against one of these ultramundane individuals. He was deciphering the hieroglyphics of the

face-like calendar stone, cast from the original in Mexico, and when the scribe likened the object which occupied his attention to a gigantic millstone he dreamily returned to the nineteenth century.

"Ah, my dear young man, that is pseudomorous. Know ye, this is the work of people who dwelt in the fair land of the Montezumas, a race."

But his language was a trifle too strong, and the two slipped through the hall to the lower story of the building.

"Come here," said the scribe a moment later, having gained courage from the fact that he had not been followed; "this," pointing the building's attention to a large bird overlaid with bills, some of which were "turned down," perched on the side of a stump and holding a dainty to its mate within.

"This is the picture illustrating the resemblance between the lower fowl and that animal known as politics. You will notice that the 'ins' and 'outs' are represented in a manner that is at once striking and comprehensive to even those who are not up to their necks in anthropology. And you will also notice the significance in the procedure of the 'out' featuring the 'in.'"

Their attention was next attracted by a gigantic ostrich, perched high above the numerous cases of feathered creatures which line the walls on either side. And the two discussed the habits of bipeds in a low tone, with an occasional furtive glance in the region of the doorway.

"You will no doubt pronounce the ostrich an interesting fowl," said a voice from the region of an alcove. It came from the thin-haired man, whom they disturbed on peering the building. He continued to stare at the ostrich with a look of intense interest.

But they continued on their way, seeking information of a less painful nature, in their own quiet manner, and came to the hall, occupying the "L" of the building, where a holy artist was engaged in drawing the likeness of an interesting turtle. In this quiet retreat the two hurriedly studied the "flowers" from the deep sea, and comparing them in their own way, with-out fear of interruption, because the hall was, with this exception, devoid of students.

Studying Anthropology.

Retracing their steps past cases filled with specimens of taxidermal art, they

gladly the hearts of the learned men who gathered about.

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The motive power is derived from the ignition and explosion of gasoline. The success of this motive power as applied to the trade is attested by many motor-cycles, exact counterparts of this one, that are in use in the cities of Germany, France and Switzerland. The cost of the gasoline is trivial.

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The machine in motion is practically noiseless. It is equipped with the ordinary bicycle bell and lamp, and a tool kit hangs from the back of the saddle. In Europe the motor-cycles are rigid and ridden tandem. The front wheel is so nicely fitted and balanced that with one spin of the hand it has revolved eight and one-half minutes. The fact that it is heavier than the wheel of the ordinary bicycle accounts for some of the reviving. As a reinforcement, the rear wheel spokes are covered with a solid covering of paper mache. The tires are very strong and heavy. The inner tube is nearly as thick as the outer tire of an ordinary bicycle, and the motor-cycle's outer tube is about three-quarters of an inch thick and is practically puncture-proof.

The maximum speed of the motor-cycle in track work is claimed to be fifty miles an hour and on a good road forty miles.

COLONY OF CATHOLICS.

Austrians Under Father Jeram Make Their Home in Eden Valley, Cal.

San Francisco Call.

The first actual work in the establishment of a Catholic colony in California was commenced at a short time ago in Mendocino county, when about forty colonists settled upon a beautiful tract in Eden Valley and prepared their future homes for occupancy.

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Forty members of the new settlement left San Francisco recently for Eden Valley; eleven of them had been living in California, the rest from the east. Their home has been called the California-Slavonian colony and their first settlement Jeramville. More colonists are expected to arrive here from different points in the east just as soon as the colony is ready for them.

The colony is said to be in a sound financial condition. Its members have among them men of various trades, who can build houses and other structures and perform all the work required on a ranch. A large part of the work of the colony will consist of stock raising, dairying, etc., in which these people are experts. They are industrious, thrifty and ambitious of success in their new field.

As the colonists arrive in this city they will be met by Father Jeram, who will take them before the archbishop, and his grace will give them his blessing. After this they will go to Eden Valley and there find a Catholic church and their countrymen for neighbors.

There will be no rush of people to the colony, as colonists will be received only as homes can be prepared for them and the colony take care of the newcomers. Those now in Eden Valley will begin at once to build proper houses, farm buildings, stores and a Catholic church.

The Hampton Court Cat.

There is a black cat at present in the seclusion of the Hampton Court caters which has spontaneously "sworn off" from all kinds of flesh food. Its favorite diet is uncooked scarlet runner beans, which it eats as an Italian cat would eat. Cucumber it likes, and carrots which are boiled, but fruit it will not touch. The Hampton Court cat seems to stand alone in a portland for food which none of its race could hitherto be induced to look at.—London Chronicle.

cluded portion of the room, and here they secreted themselves. Presently a ghille came through with a berry of radishes, and their remarks and comments told well that there were others in the building who had not made anthropology a life study.

Then the two looked at each other and followed in their wake to enjoy the contrasting opinions which they unhesitatingly ventured.

After a time they returned through the aisles strewn with learned men and women peering through windows of stone and metal, into the hallway of the gloom-swathed post, to the exit.

As they sought a bench in the park to enjoy once more the beautiful present, the scribe remarked to the crestfallen student, "Have you enough?"

And he thought he had.

A GASOLINE BICYCLE.

Queer Machine Driven Without Using the Legs—Sit Still and Ride.

A man riding a motor-bicycle has been seen frequently downtown and has excited a great deal of curiosity, says the New York Journal. The motor-bicycle is new to New Yorkers, although it has been used to some extent in Europe. This machine has no cranks and no chain, and is propelled by a cylinder full of gasoline, which is the source of energy in many of the more successful horseless carriages. The rider controls his queer-looking bicycle easily, and more than once has been observed to bring it to a dead stop right under his big, heavily loaded trunk. As he rides he has no work to do at all; all that is necessary is merely to sit still; the machine does the rest.

The rider is the promoter in this country of the new machine, which is of Bavarian manufacture, costing to build, in that country, about \$400. It is thought it can be built here for considerably less.

This motor-bicycle is a speedy traveler. While it is a mechanical and commercial success, it is by no means incapable of improvement. The first aim of the makers will be to lessen the weight. Lightness and strength are the twin marvels of the Yankee bicycle, and with these the ponderous machine of Teutonic inventive genius can hardly come into actual competition. In fact, the question of weight is the great obstacle to the success of all motor vehicles of any description, and the one that

has a safety valve to operate in the event of the fluid becoming overheated. On top of the cylinder or tank is a gauge consisting of a wire with a cork in the end, held down in the fluid by a screw cap, the removal of which lets the wire up and indicates the depth of gasoline in the tank. Another screw cap covers the feed inlet.

A chimney in the form of a drum in front of the steering post allows the hot air to escape from the vapor lamps when the explosions are caused. These explosions, recurring in a little tank situated with valves, alternately force backward and forward two piston rods acting directly on the rear wheel. Several higher bands on either side, the tension of which can be quickly regulated by a crank screw operated by the left hand while the motor cycle is running.

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At the very threshold they ran against one of these ultramundane individuals. He was deciphering the hieroglyphics of the

threaded their way up a staircase lined with casts of pillars, altars, bas-reliefs, and large fragments of inscribed walls and slabs of originals discovered in Yucatan by Charnay.

On the second floor they found a vast array of objects illustrating the history of races, including coins, medals, genealogical schemes, and an exhibit of archeological relics which is not equalled on the Western Hemisphere.

Good fortune attended them here. At the very outset a stranger was noticed gazing at the cramped posture of a fire god from Yucatan.

Be that as it may, a knocked-out football player, or he it only to represent the convulsions of a boy after eating unripe fruit?" he asked of the student.

The latter had his ardent dampened when he tackled reptiles and he found that the huge bite he had taken of things anthropological was more than he could swallow; so, being pleased to find a person with whom he could converse understandingly, he readily convinced the scribe that it would be to his interest to make friends, and the two traveled on in good fellowship.

The ancient Peruvians, whose graveyard is in a glass case near the center of the long hall, attracted their attention, and they stopped to investigate.

These individuals are doubled up like jack knives, with chins on their knees, having gummy sack cloths still wrapped about them, which make at once their coffins and their shrouds. Stories of the far-away Andes broke from those cramped bodies of bleaching bones and matted hair

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The machine in motion is practically noiseless. It is equipped with the ordinary bicycle bell and lamp, and a tool kit hangs from the back of the saddle. In Europe the motor-cycles are rigid and ridden tandem. The front wheel is so nicely fitted and balanced that with one spin of the hand it has revolved eight and one-half minutes. The fact that it is heavier than the wheel of the ordinary bicycle accounts for some of the reviving. As a reinforcement, the rear wheel spokes are covered with a solid covering of paper mache. The tires are very strong and heavy. The inner tube is nearly as thick as the outer tire of an ordinary bicycle, and the motor-cycle's outer tube is about three-quarters of an inch thick and is practically puncture-proof.

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